



THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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THE AMERICAN MAZE.

LATE NEWS.

THE CONNECTICUT RATIFICATION ILLEGAL.

THE Connecticut Legislature did ratify, on September 14, *but it was done illegally, and was of no avail.* Presumably it will be ratified again on September 21, unless in the meantime the "Antis," aided and abetted by Governor Holcomb, are able to prevent it. . . . If Connecticut ratifies it will make the 37th State, and the Amendment will not have to depend on the Tennessee vote. A Committee of the Tennessee Men's Anti-Suffrage League is now in Connecticut labouring with the legislators in the hope of preventing ratification, but we do not think this can be done.

New York, September 17.

I. H. H.

Oct. 6th.—Connecticut has re-ratified. The complete and immediate enfranchisement of American women is now secure.

* * *

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE LONG ROAD TO VICTORY.

IN the August number of *JUS SUFFRAGII*, the editor said: "We are looking for great news from America, and shall therefore go to press as late as possible for the September issue." As the "great news" was received in London on August 26, it doubtless was in time to be published in the September number, and long before this letter is read the suffragists of other countries will know that the battle for the enfranchisement of women in the United States has been won!

It will be forever a reproach to the country that the women of a republic had to struggle seventy years for a citizen's right to a voice in it, but there are some extenuating circumstances. Here was made the first large experiment in a republican form of government, and it began in a modified way. The earliest legislative bodies granted the vote to only a limited number of *men*, which was gradually increased as the demand became insistent. *Women* were not considered, as in those days most of them were uneducated, and wholly absorbed in domestic duties and the care of large families under the hard conditions of pioneer life. When the experimental government had survived its first half-century, the more advanced among women began to ask for a share in it, but their efforts scarcely had begun when the country was plunged into the five years' war between the North and the South. At its close the vast problem of the millions of freed slaves had to be faced.

Some of the Obstacles.

The Republican party enfranchised the negro men, and that deferred woman suffrage for half-a-century, as the entire South and also the Democrats of the North were determined that the negro women should not also have the ballot. The Federal Amendment which gave it to the negro men was so worded that it could not be granted to white women without including the coloured women. By the time the electorate had become adjusted to this immense addition of uneducated, untrained men, the tremendous tide of immigration set in, more than a million a year, most of them illiterate, and ignorant of our laws and customs. In many of the States alien men were allowed to vote in six months or a year, even before they had become fully naturalised, so people everywhere said: "Let us at least keep the ballot from these alien women, even less fitted for it than the men." And another obstacle was placed in the way of woman suffrage.

A further reason for the long delay has been that not enough women made the demand. In the large majority of the States the laws were not extremely oppressive to women; in only a few did women really suffer under them. Each State makes its own laws, and there has been a constant tendency to change them in the interest of women, while it has been the practice of the courts to incline favourably toward women. While inequalities still exist, the last two generations have not had deep grievances or bitter wrongs to rouse them to rebellion. In every State, for years, opportunities for education and all professions and occupations have been open to women with the exception of office holding, and even this in some degree. They have freely taken the civil service examinations without serious discrimination, although men have managed to get most of the highly paid positions, and have also received better salaries and wages than women. This, however, has not been governed by law, but by other causes. Another factor which has tended to make the mass of women reasonably contented has been the freedom and independence they have enjoyed, and the very strong influence they have possessed, because of liberal customs and the respect and liking for women which are characteristic of the nation. In the beginning it was only the thinking, far-seeing, exceptional women who could realise the necessity of a voice in the government for its higher development, and that of women themselves. They were few at first, but gradually, as the status of women changed, their numbers were augmented by the college graduates, the army of the self-supporting, and the thousands whose outlook was broadened through club life and civic work, until at last they constituted a mighty force whose claims could no longer be ignored or refused.

Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, elected at the Eighth Congress, Geneva, June 6-12, 1920.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.

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By-law of the I.W.S.A. Constitution.

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

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These are some of the reasons why the United States, which should have led the world in the enfranchisement of women, comes in among the last of the progressive nations, but there is another more powerful than all of these combined, namely, the difficulties placed in the way by the National and State constitutions. The latter represent forty-eight separate and complete governments in all except matters that concern the entire nation. When the National or Federal Constitution was framed it was silent on the subject of suffrage, and the assumption was that each State could regulate this to suit itself; so all of them put into their constitutions that only males could vote, and the constitution could be amended or changed only by consent of a majority of the electors. In every other country except Switzerland the National Parliament can extend the suffrage, but in the United States this power was not reserved by the Congress. Therefore, the women everywhere were faced with the hard situation that they could get the franchise only by permission of the majority of the men. This was granted by fifteen States, which thus enfranchised between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 women. Let it be remembered that in no other country do the women enjoy the suffrage by consent of a majority of the individual men.

When the Republican Party wanted to give the ballot to negro men after the Civil War, it tried the plan of having the different States vote on the question, and it was defeated every time. This party was in complete control of the

national government, and its leaders said: "Since the States will not enfranchise negro men, the Federal Constitution shall be amended for the purpose!" It was a daring and unauthorised act, but they had almost the entire membership of Congress, and they put it through. The Southern States were disfranchised on account of the war; the Northern States were all Republican; it was a party measure, and the Legislatures ratified it, although it had been impossible to coerce the individual voters.

Miss Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other leaders of the movement for Woman Suffrage saw instantly an escape from the endless task of getting it from forty-eight States, and at once they organised a National Association to obtain an Amendment to the Federal Constitution. This was in 1869, and they expected to succeed within a few years. It has required fifty. All that noble generation of pioneers long since passed away; a second has grown gray-haired in the struggle, and a third has helped to win the final victory.

That Cast-iron Constitution.

No constitutional government has made change so almost impossible as has that of the United States. Mrs. Fawcett aptly said in a recent letter: "I always think that the founders of your constitution laboured under the illusion that they were divinely inspired to legislate, not only for their own time but for all succeeding generations; otherwise they surely would not have made amendments to it so overwhelmingly difficult." The trouble was that they did not really believe in a genuine democracy. They had framed a document which they considered all-sufficient, and they wished to guard against its amendment. It may be said, however, that it was advisable to avoid hasty and radical amending, since it would be practically impossible ever to rescind it. To amend requires a two-thirds vote of each house of the Congress, and then submission to the State Legislatures, three-fourths of which must ratify or endorse it. For the reasons given above, and many others, there was not sufficient pressure to carry the Suffrage amendment through the Congress, and the early workers soon realised that they must continue the effort to enfranchise the women in the separate States until there was a large voting constituency back of it. At last this was accomplished, but even then both parties, although admitting that it was inevitable, tried to defer it as long as possible.

The Last Days.

The story has been told in the INTERNATIONAL NEWS of the struggle with Congress, which entered its last stages after the victory in New York State in November, 1917, and continued until June, 1920. The progress of the amendment on its journey through thirty-five Legislatures during fifteen months has been related, with the remarkable record of twenty-six "special" sessions. The fight for the thirty-sixth ratification, beginning last March, has been described, and there remains only to tell of the end of five months later in Tennessee. The ten hopelessly reactionary coast States from Louisiana to Delaware had defeated it. Every western, northern and eastern State had ratified it except Vermont and Connecticut, and their governors stubbornly persisted in their refusal to call their Legislatures in extra session. A complete deadlock had been reached. The North Carolina Legislature was to meet, but the opinion that there was no hope in that benighted State was justified, for both houses lost no time in defeating ratification. Its leaders telegraphed the Tennessee Legislature to stand firmly in opposition, and even sent an emissary

with a personal message. Secretary-of-the-Navy Daniels, a member of President Wilson's Cabinet, and a native of North Carolina, used his utmost influence for the amendment, and his wife, who will be remembered as a delegate to the recent International Alliance Congress in Geneva, went to the assistance of the suffragists. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and other prominent men, and President Wilson himself, urged the ratification, but nobody could instil advance ideas into the rank and file of the legislators.

All the Southern States bordering on the Western and Middle States, and influenced by their progressive action, had ratified—Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and West Virginia—and the sentiment in Tennessee was believed to be so favourable that its governor was anxious to call a special session. There had been a legal obstacle in the State constitution, but this was nullified by a decision of the United States Supreme Court last June. As related in my letter for the September NEWS, the session was called for August 9, and on the 13th the Senate ratified by 25 to 4.

The Fight in Tennessee.

The enfranchisement of the women of the entire country then depended on the action of the lower house of the Tennessee Legislature, and such a fight was made there never was known in legislative history. The organised anti-suffrage forces of the entire country, men and women, sent their representatives. An Anti-Suffrage League of prominent Tennessee men was formed, and men from New York, Maryland, and other States joined them. National and State Anti-Suffrage Associations of women sent their members to lobby against the amendment, six going from Ohio alone, and strong representatives were there from the Southern States.

I hope the NEWS can find space for a part at least of the report made by Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, president of the Ohio Suffrage Association for the past twenty-five years, and for twenty years treasurer of the National American Association. Mrs. Upton now holds the highest position of any woman in the Republican party, vice-chairman of its National Committee. At the beginning of the campaign, Mrs. Catt was requested by Governor Roberts to come to Nashville for consultation. She went down with a suit-case expecting to stay only a few days, but when she realised the situation she sent for more clothes and remained six weeks. Mrs. Upton went to her assistance as the special representative of the Republican National Committee. Governor Cox, the Democratic candidate for President, had his personal representatives there, and was ready to go himself if needed.

ALL THE FORCES OF EVIL OPPOSE RATIFICATION.

In a public address after her return Mrs. Catt said: "Never in the history of politics has there been such a force of evil, such a nefarious lobby as laboured to block the advance of suffrage in Nashville, Tennessee. In the short time that I spent in the capital I have been called more names, been more maligned, more lied about than in the thirty previous years I worked for suffrage. I was flooded with anonymous letters, vulgar, ignorant, insane. Strange men and groups of men sprang up, men we had never met before in battle. Who were they? We were told, this is the railroad lobby, this is the steel lobby, these are lobbyists from the Manufacturers Association, these come from the aluminium interests, this is the remnant of the old whiskey ring. Even tricksters from the United States Revenue Service were there, operating against us, until the President of the United States called them off. . . They appropriated our telegrams, tapped our telephones, listened outside our windows and transoms. They attacked our private and public lives. I will not tell you to what depths they finally descended when the desperation of defeat was upon them. I had heard of the 'Invisible Government.' Well, I have seen it work and I have seen it sent back into oblivion."

The Governor Stands Firm.

The Governor and president of the Senate stood like the Rock of Gibraltar, and the opponents could make no headway in that branch. The Speaker of the House had pledged his support, but as soon as the session opened he allied himself with the "antis" and used all the power of his official position to defeat the amendment. While the balloting was going on he left the chair, went on the floor of the House and put his arms around members, pleading with them to vote "no." When ratification carried August 18th by 49 to 47, he moved a reconsideration. He could not get the votes to reverse the majority, and the Suffragists decided to move for reconsideration themselves, hold their majority, and prevent any further action. The night before this was to be done, over thirty of the "anti" legislators slipped across the State line into Alabama, where the Sergeant-at-arms could not summon them, and thus they would prevent a quorum and the vote to reconsider could not be taken. When it came up Saturday, August 21st, the Speaker ruled there was no quorum; the leader of the ratificationists declared that under the general rules a majority could act; the House sustained him; the motion to reconsider was made and defeated.

The Injunction Fails.

An injunction suit was at once brought against the Governor, president of the Senate and chief clerk to restrain them from certifying that the amendment had been ratified. The Attorney-General of the State argued the case before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who set aside the injunction. The Governor sent by registered mail the certificate of ratification, properly signed, to Secretary of State Colby the evening of the 25th. The opponents then prepared to issue an injunction against him, restraining him from proclaiming that the thirty-sixth State had ratified.

Woman Suffrage a Part of the Constitution of the U.S.A.

President Wilson and Mr. Colby understand legal and political tactics themselves. The train bringing the certificate was due in Washington at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 26th. Clerks in the State Department were detailed to remain there all night, if necessary, to sign for the registered letter, which the Post Office was ordered to rush to the department the moment it arrived. A clerk delivered it to Secretary Colby at 3.45. By arrangement, it was sent at once to the solicitor of the State Department to be carefully examined. At 8 o'clock it was returned to the Secretary for his signature, and at 9 o'clock he issued the proclamation that "the amendment extending the right of suffrage to women has become valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution of the United States."

The opponents were outwitted, but they went right on and enjoined him just the same, and also various other officials. They have already brought suits in three or four courts and lost the case every time. They now have several suits pending in various courts which they are going to carry through to the Supreme Court of the United States, and yet all they are expecting to gain is a postponement until all the Legislatures meet in regular session next January. Former President Taft, former Justice Charles E. Hughes, the Attorney-General of the United States, and other eminent lawyers have given the opinion that the ratification of the Tennessee Legislature was legal and constitutional and that the amendment can never be disturbed.

This amendment gives the complete suffrage and eligibility to all women on the same terms as they are enjoyed by all men. It has added more women voters to the electorate than there are men voters in any other country—probably 26,000,000. This is the only nation which has conferred the suffrage on women through the action of tens of thousands of men—those in fifteen States and several thousands in the various Legislatures.

Mrs. Catt Received by President Wilson.

Not until the Certificate of Ratification had been forwarded by the Governor of Tennessee did Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the national president, leave her post in Nashville, and then with Mrs. Upton and other leaders she went to Washington, the scene of the fifty years' effort in Congress for this amendment. Here she was received by President Wilson and,

accompanied by her co-workers, called on Secretary Colby at the State Department. In the evening they told the story of the Tennessee campaign to an audience that filled the largest theatre. Secretary Colby made the address of welcome and brought a written greeting from the President. The next day they came to New York, where Governor Smith had been waiting an hour for their belated train to welcome them in the name of the State. Hundreds of Suffragists, with flags and banners, were there to act as guard of honour. Mrs. Catt's beautifully-decorated, flower-filled automobile headed the procession, which was escorted through the streets by a detachment of the finest mounted police and the 71st New York Regiment band. And in the large gallery of the Hotel Waldorf, where so many Suffrage meetings had taken place, was held the last for all time.

In the cities and towns from ocean to ocean and from lakes to gulf, celebrations of many kinds have commemorated the great victory.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York City, September 10th, 1920.

THE STORY OF THE 36TH STATE.

By HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON.

THE Sunday preceding the opening of the session, the National Republican Committee sent me to Tennessee to assist the Republicans in their work for ratification. Mrs. Catt, whose experience has been a long one, said she never saw so vicious a lobby as that opposed to us, and as for myself, sometimes I was terrified by the terrible hostility.

How the Women Worked.

No group of women ever worked harder than did the Tennessee women; they were largely young, and they started in full vigour, and I saw them grow pale and weak and fairly prostrated before they were through. They left no stone unturned, they were resourceful beyond anything I have ever known. They were fearless, relentlessly calling down their adversaries as occasion required. Their men worked with them and for them with the same sort of valour that they would have fought a physical battle.

As we look back on the days spent in Tennessee and remember how we sat at the window of our hotel and looked out on the Capitol waiting for the verdict, how we encouraged and assisted the men who were with us, how we sympathised with and helped as we could the Tennessee women, how we each in turn grew brave when the others were despondent, how elated and happy we were sometimes, how perfectly despairing we were at others, the thing that stands out above all others was the vicious lobby.

Viciousness of Opposing Forces.

Oh! the subtlety and the wickedness and the viciousness of the men lobbyists who were there. The whisky lobby was there in all its strength. The railroad lobby was there, and one member on the floor said that that lobby had dominated the State for fifty years, and it had taken the question of Woman Suffrage to free the legislature from it. The manufacturers' lobby was there, and on one day a manufacturer dismissed the girls in his factory and put red roses on them and had them go to the Capitol to swell the number of the "antis." There were mysterious men; nobody knew where they came from or whom they represented. For the first time in my life I would open my door suddenly and find a man standing there listening.

They Steal a Telegram, Kidnap a Suffrage Supporter, Attack Harry Burns, and use every Underhand Means.

A telegram of mine was stolen between my room and the operating desk, and so bold was the thief that he gave it to a newspaper and it was published facsimile. One of the ratification men was carried off and hidden, and a most thorough search had to be instituted before he could be found and brought back. Harry Burns, who voted as his mother asked him to and, as he announced from the floor, because his party had promised to, was the object of a most scandalous

attack. The Governor was visited by a very influential citizen, who was financially and in other ways very powerful, and told that if he did not retrace his steps and come out against ratification he would be ruined. A young man who was for ratification was called out of bed every half-hour throughout a whole night and almost as often during the second night and was asked to come down town, that he was needed. He constantly refused, but this calling to the telephone kept him awake all night, and the purpose was to get him so tired and sleepy that his moral would be broken. Alcohol was as free as air, and men who had any weakness in that direction were soon silenced in sleep. The wife of a prominent official in a southern State (Governor Pleasant), immediately after Harry Burns had voted for ratification, took a train and went to his home in Niota, called upon his mother and tried to make her say that she had not written the letter to her son, tried to make her say she was not a Suffragist, tried to make her write her son to change his mind, but this woman of the Tennessee mountains, who never had seen a living Suffragist, who had never had been identified with them, knew so well the justice of the cause that nothing moved her. In speaking of it afterwards, she said gently, she had almost to show the lady the door in order to get rid of her.

A Terrible Battle.

Yes, it was the most terrible fight that was ever made anywhere for suffrage, and it was everybody's victory. It was woman's victory, it was man's victory. A Democratic Governor made the session of the legislature possible, a Republican minority held the balance of power and furnished the votes which put it over, and last of all the women of the North, in many States, have really received their right to vote from the men of the South. It was a terrible battle, but it was worth while. Mrs. Catt said in summing up the situation that it was brought about by the political parties, but a New York paper denied this and said it was brought about by the women themselves. Both statements were true, the women themselves fought the battle, and when they were strong enough and brave enough, the political parties saw the victory, and espoused the cause. If it had not been for the stand of the Democratic Party, Governor Roberts never would have called the legislature. If it had not been for the stand of the Republican Party, the Republican mountaineers would never have put over ratification.

Yes, as I write, I can see plainly the State House in Nashville. It stands out so strong against the sky. I can feel again the palpitation of my heart as I hear the cheers and do not know what has happened inside. I can see the people as they rush out of that Capitol, as they come to tell us the news. It is all so plain to me, that building surrounded by hills and beautiful valleys and it seemed suitable that our fight should have been ended in that very State, the State of Andrew Jackson and his beloved Rachel for whom he fought.

The "Antis" Fight for Reconsideration.

As dramatic as was the ratification vote, the vote to reconsider was more so. On the afternoon of this second Friday there were rumours abroad that the anti-ratificationists were going to try to break the quorum. Everybody was on the qui vive. Every member of the legislature was watching and being watched. If a man went through the hall with a bag he was questioned as to where he was going. It was not alone the lobbyists who suffered during that session, no legislator had a happy time. As the night wore on the railroad stations were watched so that it might be known whether men were buying tickets to leave town, and after the last train had gone, along towards three a.m., watchers all went to bed with the idea that in a few hours more our question would be settled. We had counted without reason; thirty-four legislators had taken taxis for the station below town, bought tickets for Decatur, Ala., and as a reward a Baptist minister had made arrangements for them to attend his services on Sunday morning.

How Dodson's Vote Defeated the "Antis."

Mr. Dodson, a young mountaineer, who had been sticking closely to his job, received word a day or two before the vote was taken that his baby was sick. On Friday night late, he

got word that the baby was dying and he must come home immediately. Trains in Tennessee do not run often. He telephoned to his wife that he would take the first train and he would be home the next night. Distances are great in Tennessee. The ratificationists therefore, in order to have the constitutional quorum, intended to have action taken before Mr. Dodson should leave. However, they were delayed, and at a quarter of eleven some Suffragists took him to the train in a high-power motor and bade him good-bye. Hardly was he gone when the ratificationists realised that if the motion to reconsider was voted down by less than a constitutional quorum, question might be raised, so taking another motor they hurried to the train, got to the Pullman-car, brushed away the porter, grabbed Mr. Dodson, told him he must come back or all would be lost. He stood for a moment wavering between his dying baby and his political duty, and then he was told that they would get a special train to take him home if possible, and grabbing his bag the three men jumped off the train after it was in motion. He went back to the Capitol, voted "no" on reconsideration and saved the day. A special was secured to reach Chattanooga in time to make the connection he would have made if he had taken an earlier train.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

CHRISTIANIA, SEPT. 8th to 18th.

AT its closing meeting, the International Council of Women was reminded of its connection with the great Woman Suffrage pioneer, Susan B. Anthony, when the retiring president, Lady Aberdeen, in laying down her office, pinned to the breast of the new President, Mrs. Chaponnière-Chaix the Council badge which had belonged to that world-renowned feminist. One of the first actions of the Council at Christiania was to clear up certain points in its early history. It was definitely placed on record that the Council had been initiated by a group of American women, among whom two were specially to be remembered: Susan B. Anthony, who had first proposed the calling together of an International Congress of Women not confined to Suffragists; and May Wright Sewall, who had first proposed the formation of National Councils of Women. Miss Anthony devoted her long and active life to Women Suffrage, but she also recognised that the average woman is not a pioneer any more than the average man, and in encouraging the formation of the International Council she helped to lay the foundation of the machinery for the political and social education of the average woman.

Both the International Council and the National Councils affiliated to it are sometimes criticised as not being sufficiently radical in their attitude to general political questions. Surely this is not surprising. Their membership is drawn from women's organisations of all kinds and of all political colours; and a group made up in this way, whether men or women, will never, within any nation, differ widely from the majority political point of view of the day. When we turn, however, from ordinary political questions to those affecting the position of women, both the International Council and its branches are found to be not only progressive, but revolutionary. In 1904, the International Council of Women unanimously put on its programme Woman Suffrage, a political reform which has not always been supported, but, indeed, too often opposed by the Parties calling themselves progressive. The Council also stands for the equal moral standard, and the abolition of the state regulation of prostitution, a reform so revolutionary that probably the majority of the Members of the Parliaments of the world to-day would declare it to be impossible of achievement.

A number of the resolutions adopted in Christiania are also of a revolutionary character in the sense that they boldly propose a complete change in the traditional point of view with regard to women's position. The Council urged that a woman should be legally entitled to a portion of her husband's income—Sweden had previously reported the passage of a new marriage law which recognises the wife's right to economic equality with her husband. This law, which is of the same spirit as the resolution, lays it down that both husband and wife must help to support the family, at the same time providing that the work of the wife

in the home is to be considered as contributing to this support. Another resolution which likewise seeks to overturn the present views with respect to the married women's rights of citizenship is that which demanded that a woman shall be given the right to retain her nationality on marriage with the subject of another country, and the same right to choice of nationality as a man. The resolution urging that procedure should be introduced for ascertaining the identity of the unmarried father, and compelling him to contribute to the maintenance of his child, if not advanced legislation in the more advanced countries, is certainly revolutionary in those where the *recherche de la paternité* is still forbidden. A point of view which is also revolutionary, namely, that a government cannot be treated as ethically developed if it gives legal sanction to a slave class of women within its jurisdiction, is brought out in the demand that mandates by the League of Nations shall be conditional on the State regulation of prostitution being forbidden within the mandatory territory.

The Christiania meeting is the most representative that has been held. Notwithstanding the enforced discontinuance of international relations during the war, no Council has withdrawn in the six years, and the President was able to ask for the affiliation of new Councils from Iceland, Russia, Uruguay, Mexico, and Ukraina. This brings the total up to twenty-eight, because the New Zealand Council, which for some years had lapsed, has been reformed and has again taken up active work. Of them, Germany, Italy, Mexico and Russia were the only Councils unrepresented.

The German Council refrained from taking part because Germany has not been invited to join the League of Nations. Writing on its behalf, Dr. Gertrud Bäumer explained that they did not absent themselves because they did not think the work of the International Council of Women important in the work of international reconstruction. They did not know whether a resolution expressing the desirability of admitting Germany to the League would be accepted; and until this fundamental principle of the equality of the nations was recognised, the German Council could not be represented in the International. They hoped, however, that it would not be long before they could again join in international work. The Austrian delegates, although represented at the Council, came with instructions to refrain from taking any part in discussion, or in the vote on any resolutions in which the League of Nations was mentioned. They considered that, as a number of nations had not been invited to join the League, it was not, in any sense, a real League of Nations. To meet the situation a resolution was adopted urging that all self-governing nations should be admitted to the League as soon as possible, and Dr. Alice Salomon, of Berlin, the retiring Corresponding Secretary, was elected one of the Vice-Presidents, notwithstanding her having refused to accept nomination.

A feature of the Congress was the recognition given to it by the Norwegian Government which had lent for the occasion its Storting or Parliament Buildings, an ideal place for such a meeting. Many governments were represented by officially appointed delegates. The positions occupied by a number of the delegates were an indication of the progress made by women in the last few years. Miss Betzy Kjelsberg, who was acting president for the Norwegian Council in the absence through illness of Mrs. Hambro, is a factory inspector, and was one of the advisors sent by Norway to the official International Labour Conference at Washington last year. She also gave greetings to the Congress from the International Working Women's Congress, of which body she is a Vice-President. Prominent also among the Norwegian delegates were a number of town councillors, a woman barrister, and a woman university professor. The delegates included also two members of parliament, two justices of the peace, and a woman preacher. For the first time a woman of an Eastern race was present, Madame A. Tong Sze, wife of the Chinese Minister in London. She hopes to form a National Council in China, and was consequently appointed an Honorary Vice-President of the Council for that country. For the first time, too, a coloured woman was included among the delegates, and she brought forward on behalf of the United States the proposal asking for better conditions for the illegitimate child.

Apart from the motion dealing with the admittance of new countries to the League of Nations, questions of international relations between the countries were avoided. It would

have been impossible, however, for a representative body of women to have come together without urging the need for helping the starving children of Europe. It is difficult now to remember that this was not so long ago a contentious international question. That the Council was ready to give expression to international good feeling was evident from the enthusiastic response given to the Serbian delegate when in addressing herself more especially to the German-speaking delegates, said, "wir hassen einander nicht."

The most animated debate was that on the principle of mothers' pensions, a reform eloquently advocated by Betsy Kjelsberg, who brought forward the proposal on behalf of Norway. The resolution, however, was only carried after it had been restricted to cases of necessitous mothers.

Other resolutions recommended the international exchange of teachers of the establishment of a Health Department of the League of Nations, provided that in dealing with venereal disease, the equal moral standard be observed; the adoption of local option; the condemnation of the State regulation of prostitution and a warning to women all over the world to oppose the introduction of regulations which, under the guise of health measures against venereal disease, give power for the compulsory examination and detention of women.

The I.W.S.A. Proposals at the Council.

The International Women's Suffrage Association Officers' meeting at Geneva appointed Mrs. Corbett Ashby and me as fraternal delegates to the International Council of Women's meeting. In response to the request to be received as such, the President explained that, because of difficulties in making a selection of International Societies, the International Council of Women did not accept fraternal delegates. I was, however, allowed, when representatives of other international women's societies were presenting their greetings, to give the greetings of the International Women's Suffrage Association Conference at Geneva, and to express the hope that the two international organisations would be able to co-operate in working for those reforms for which they both stood.

The Council adopted a resolution recommending its Executive to co-operate where possible with other international organisations.

The special invitation of the International Women's Suffrage Association for the support of the International Council of Women in requesting the League of Nations to call annually a Conference of Women, was considered at an informal conference of the Council on future work and co-operation with other societies. The proposal was shortly discussed, but the informal vote taking the sense of the meeting was against accepting the invitation.

The New Board.

The members of the newly-elected Board are as follows:—President: Mme. Chaponnière-Chaix. Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Great Britain; Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix, France; Miss Henni Forchhammer, Denmark; Dr. Alice Salomon, Germany (if she will accept); Mrs. Dobson, Australia; Mrs. Philip North Moore, United States of America. Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Anna Backer, Norway. Treasurer: Mrs. Sandford, Canada. Recording Secretaries: Miss Elsie Zimmer, Great Britain, and Miss Brasser, Holland. Lady Aberdeen has been appointed Honorary President.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

PRINCIPAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE I.C.W. CONFERENCE, CHRISTIANIA, SEPT., 1920. League of Nations.

THAT the International Council of Women, comprising delegates from twenty-eight National Councils of Women, desires to place on record their high satisfaction that a League or Nations for the prevention of war and the submission of international disputes to arbitration has been created as an integral part of the Treaty of Versailles, and considers that it is of the first importance for the settlement of political and economic questions and for the establishment of international justice that the membership of the League should as rapidly as possible be extended to include all fully self-governing States."

"Seeing that all positions within the League of Nations or in connection with it are proclaimed open to women equally with men and that the whole-hearted co-operation of men

and women is required in international work, this International Council of Women urges all States members of the League:—

- (a) To send forward a woman as one of their three delegates to the first Assembly of the League in November, 1920.
- (b) To select suitable women as well as men to assist the delegates in the advisory and consultative capacities designated under the League.
- (c) To recommend to the first Assembly that in the case of the International Health Organisation to be established under the League and any other commission or organisation formed to deal with the concerns of men and women and the well-being of the family, the States members shall appoint at least two delegates, one of whom shall be a woman."

Consideration of National Peculiarities in International Legislation and Regulations.

That the International Council of Women urges the League of Nations to give full consideration to national peculiarities, whether these be derived from educational, social or geographical conditions, so as to prevent valuable national individuality in ethics, manners and customs from being interfered with by Internationalism."

International Interchange of Public School Teachers.

That it is a matter of international importance that action be taken to facilitate the interchange of teachers of the public schools in the various countries, and that, with this in view, it is desirable that in all countries where a Teachers' Super-annuation Scheme is established, either now or hereafter, provision should be made therein for meeting the case of teachers serving for a limited period in other countries than their own."

Training in Citizenship and Instruction of Girls in Laws affecting Women and Children.

That in all schools more adequate provision be made for training in citizenship, and that in the upper classes in High Schools and Continuation Schools instruction be given to girls in the leading principles of the laws of their country."

International Movement for Child Welfare.

That this International Council of Women calls upon the women of all countries to do all in their power to save the children in the famine-stricken districts of Europe."

Laws of Nationality.

That, in view of the importance of international agreement on the laws of nationality and the confusion which arises from differences between one country and another, especially in the case of women, the International Council of Women urges the affiliated National Councils to promote legislation in their respective countries which shall give women the right to retain their own nationality on marriage with the subject of another country, and shall allow to a woman the same choice of nationality as to a man."

The International Council of Women recommends to affiliated National Councils the study of legislation by which women who may marry aliens may retain their own nationality and domicile when they so desire, and that women who have lost their native citizenship by marriage may resume the same, and to draw up propositions to this effect for international legislation for presentation to the League of Nations and Governments, and that this be referred to the Laws Committee."

Public Health.

That National Councils of Women endeavour to obtain closer relationship between countries, not only in matters affecting public health, but also as regards education, trades and professions, and equal moral standard."

International Bureau of Public Health.

That in the opinion of the International Council of Women it is eminently desirable that an International Bureau of Public Health, consisting of men and women, be established in connection with the League of Nations, provided that in dealing with diseases springing from immorality the equal moral standard between men and women be observed."

Closer Relationship between Departments of Public Health.

That National Councils of Women endeavour to obtain closer relationship between the various Departments and Committees affecting public health in their respective countries, in order that knowledge and help may be given mutually on all points relating to better living conditions for humanity."

Medical Examination of Immigrants.

To prevent hardships which immigrants frequently suffer because of lack of an exact and severe examination at ports of embarkation, we urge all National Councils to request their Governments to establish in their countries such a system of medical examination as shall be identical with the requirements of the examining board at the port of debarkation."

Women on Public Committees.

That on all public committees, especially those dealing with public welfare, an adequate number of women be appointed."

Economic Position of Wives.

That the International Council of Women ask the National Councils to consider the economic position of the wife, and recommends that she should be legally entitled to a fixed proportion of her husband's income."

Equal Moral Standard and Suppression of Traffic in Women.

That the International Council of Women pursue persistently its campaign against the traffic in women, and in favour of an equal moral standard, and call upon the Governments vigorously to enforce laws for the protection of minor girls and women, and the repression of procuration in all its forms."

That the International Council of Women call upon all Governments to abolish the regulation of prostitution, especially in the forms of compulsory medical examination of women, the registration of prostitutes, the licensing of houses of ill-fame, and all similar administrative measures, such measures being both ineffective in reducing disease and deteriorating to public morals."

That the International Council of Women Standing Committees on Public Health, and the Equal Moral Standard, combine for the study of the best means of combating the spread of venereal diseases, and warn women all over the world to oppose the re-introduction of regulations which, under the guise of health measures against venereal disease, give power for the compulsory examination and detention of women."

That the International Council of Women promote the introduction of instruction in the essential principles of health and sexual morality in all sections of public education."

That the International Council of Women urge that mandates by the League of Nations shall be conditional on the abolition of the State regulation of prostitution within the mandatory territory."

Children born out of Wedlock.

That the International Council of Women recommends that legislation should be enacted in all countries giving the child born out of wedlock the right to his father's name, provide a procedure to find the paternity of the father, and secure the child an adequate maintenance."

Housing.

That the International Council of Women, realising that all efforts towards improved public health and a higher moral standard are impeded by bad housing conditions, urge affiliated National Councils of Women to use every means in their power to hasten the provision of healthy, convenient dwellings for all."

Local Option.

That in view of the great benefits that have accrued to America from the experience of local option in that country, the International Council considers that in every country where the sale of liquor is carried on a similar power should be granted to its citizens."

Better Films.

Believing that the motion picture is one of the greatest factors in the education of the masses to-day, and realising

that this potent influence may be directed into channels of greatest usefulness to the peoples of the world, it is hereby resolved that the International Council of Women do establish a standing Cinematograph Committee to encourage better film and educational film movements in all countries; to receive and disseminate information, and otherwise function as may be deemed wise."

International Information Bureau.

That the International Council of Women form an International Bureau of Information regarding all matters concerning women, their position, and their work—this Bureau to receive reports of the progress of the Women's Movement in all countries through the medium of the National Councils of Women in each country.

Be it further resolved that the said I.C.W. Bureau of Information publish a periodical which shall be considered the organ of the International Council of Women."

Women's Conference and League of Nations.

That the International Council of Women decline the invitation to support the proposal of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance for an annual official Women's Conference under the auspices of the League of Nations and at their expense."

Co-operation with other International Organisations.

That the International Council of Women Conference recommend the International Council of Women Executive and Officers to keep in view the desirability of co-operation with other great International women's organisations on subjects of common interest."

THE INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST CONFERENCE, GENEVA, 1920.

Contributed by the British Branch (The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.)

AFTER an interruption of five years, the International Abolitionist Federation is to meet this year at Geneva, September 27-29. For many reasons special interest and significance attaches to this gathering, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of Abolitionists and of other persons who are trying to combat venereal disease and to solve the problems of prostitution.

The Federation was founded in 1875, being one of the earliest attempts at international organisation for any purpose. Its yearly gatherings have brought together representatives from every European country and from America, and have powerfully assisted the movement, which has already abolished the system of Regulation in Britain, Holland, Norway, Denmark and Italy and undermined it even in those countries where it still persists.

The keynote of the Portsmouth Conference was: "A Constructive Policy—Liberty with Responsibility." War time is not favourable for civil liberty nor for constructive work. Yet, in our own country at least, we cannot fail to be struck with the progress that has since been made—on the lines which were indicated at Portsmouth. On one of the days discussion was concerned almost entirely with three suggestions, all of which have materialised: women police, continuation schools, and better allowances for the wives of soldiers. We have appointed women police and have found them as valuable as the women police assistants in German cities, of whom Frau Scheven then told us. The policy of voluntary, gratuitous, State-supported treatment of venereal diseases as described by Dr. Santoliquido in Italy and by Dr. Lomholt in Denmark, has been adopted in Britain with general approval, and if in our laws for public order we have made no actual progress, we have hitherto successfully resisted the dangers of panic legislation.

One reason why the coming Conference is of special importance is that the Federation is to be asked to widen its scope. Hitherto its sole object has been "the abolition of prostitution, specially regarded as a legal or tolerated institution." This limitation has naturally weakened its appeal to the younger generation, and there is an increasing

(Continued on page 10.)

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES. ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE.

JUSQU'ICI la victoire semblait certaine (en dépit de l'action judiciaire prise par la Tennessee, qui rejeta sa première ratification de l'Amendement) parce que nous avions reçu par télégramme l'avis que le Connecticut avait ratifié l'Amendement le 14 septembre; ceci aurait donc été le trente-septième État américain à ratifier.

Nous apprenons aujourd'hui par Mrs. Harper que la ratification de Connecticut n'était pas légale, et que cet État doit de nouveau réaccepter l'Amendement.

Néanmoins les suffragistes américaines ont grand espoir d'arriver à leurs fins avant les élections de novembre.

Le 28 septembre.

L'AFRIQUE DU SUD.

Dans un rapport présenté à la Conférence de Durban sur l'affranchissement des femmes de l'Afrique du Sud, la position a été expliquée. Je la donne en abrégé.

Il est évident qu'il ne faut rien attendre du gouvernement présent, vu que le gouvernement avait mis à son programme "l'affranchissement de la femme" et qu'il a manqué de donner son support à la cause.

La seconde fois que le projet de loi devait passer devant la Chambre, le 27 mai, il a été remis indéfiniment. La difficulté de faire face au vote indigène rend la situation plus difficile, et l'association se demande que faire devant ce manque de principe du gouvernement.

ARGENTINE.

Il paraît que les femmes ont déjà le vote municipal dans les provinces de San-Juan et de Rio.

Un projet de loi, introduit par le Dr. Araya, est en ce moment à la Chambre Nationale des Députés à l'attente.

Ce projet donnerait à toute femme de 22 ans le même droit de voter, déjà obtenu par l'homme à l'âge de 18 ans.

La Fédération des Femmes ouvrières de la province de Corrientes, Argentine, vient de publier un journal: *Una Fuerza*, qui paraîtra deux fois par mois. Ce journal sera l'organe de l'association et soutiendra l'égalité des droits des deux sexes.

LE BRÉSIL.

D'après un article paru le 1^{er} septembre dans le *Times*, nous apprenons que le Sénat brésilien a rejeté, par une majorité considérable, le projet de loi donnant le vote aux femmes.

M. Justo Chermont, qui avait proposé la loi, est très en faveur du suffrage féminin. Il est aussi désireux que la femme brésilienne prenne part à la vie politique, pour encourager l'homme à s'intéresser d'avantage aux affaires publiques; et il déplore le manque d'intérêt et l'indifférence de la population qui devrait voter. Le mouvement féminin marche certainement à grands pas au Brésil. L'éditeur de *Nosso Journal*, Señora Cassilda Martins, publie que tout dernièrement on a nommé une femme comme inspecteur des Écoles publiques à Rio-Janeiro.

Jusqu'à présent les organisations féminines avaient simplement la charité comme but. A cette heure, la femme s'occupe aussi de la situation et de l'aspect politique des choses.

FRANCE.

Suffrage des femmes.

Nous n'avons pas de nouvelles intéressantes à envoyer à JUS SUFFRAGII concernant les progrès du suffrage en France, car notre effort auprès du Sénat a été nécessairement interrompu par les vacances.

Nous préparons dès maintenant un nouvel appel que nous allons envoyer à tous les Sénateurs au moment de la rentrée du Parlement, afin d'obtenir la discussion de la loi sur le suffrage féminin. Cette loi, votée par la Chambre des Députés le 20 mai 1919, attend depuis dix-sept mois que le Sénat veuille bien trouver le temps de la discuter.

M. Justin Godart, qui a représenté le gouvernement français au Congrès de Genève et qui est président du Groupe des Droits de la femme à la Chambre des Députés, nous fait espérer une pression de ce Groupe auprès du Sénat, mais cette pression ne peut être qu'officielle et n'a pas de puissance officielle sur le Sénat.

Congrès National de la Natalité.

En dehors de la question du suffrage proprement dit, les suffragistes ont toujours du travail à faire concernant la femme et l'avenir de la famille, et j'écris ce rapport de Rouen

où je suis venue prendre part au Congrès National de la Natalité qui a lieu du 23 au 26 septembre. Le programme du Congrès intéressera les lecteurs de JUS SUFFRAGII, car plusieurs des sujets étudiés rentrent exactement dans les préoccupations manifestées par les membres de notre Congrès de Genève. Tout ce qui concerne la morale, la famille, la femme et l'enfant vient à cœur aux femmes préoccupées du présent et de l'avenir de l'humanité.

Le projet de loi de votre familial, dont nous avons entretenu les lecteurs de JUS SUFFRAGII dans le numéro de septembre, a sa place au Congrès de la Natalité, et quoique nous désapprouvions ce projet à différents points de vue et parce qu'il fait à la femme une situation inférieure puisqu'il donne au père les voix des enfants, cependant il est intéressant de savoir que ce projet est en discussion.

Programme des Travaux.

Education, Enseignement et Propagande.

Enseignement donné aux enfants et aux adolescents.
Culture des qualités morales préparant à la discipline des mœurs, et, ultérieurement, à la vie familiale féconde.
Conférences sur la morale et la discipline sexuelles.
Nécessité d'une ardente propagande auprès des adultes en faveur de la discipline des mœurs.

Action Religieuse.

Orientation de l'enseignement de la morale religieuse vers la discipline sexuelle et la fécondité.
Rôle des Ministres du Culte; leur influence sur les enfants, auprès des adolescents (patronages, unions, associations, etc.) et des adultes.
Préparation au mariage.

Hygiène et Puériculture.

L'habitation de la famille ouvrière et de la famille bourgeoise nombreuse.
La puériculture et l'hygiène des enfants du premier âge.

Action des Pouvoirs Publics.

Les devoirs de l'autorité municipale.
La répression légale des entreprises de démoralisation et d'abâtardissement de la race.
Etude approfondie de l'ensemble du régime fiscal à élaborer en faveur de la famille nombreuse; nécessité d'un statut fiscal cohérent et équitable; allocations et dégrèvements.

Action Professionnelle.

La tâche des employeurs: le sursalaire familial; étude détaillée des différences constatées dans le fonctionnement des caisses de répartition; raisons de ces différences; leurs rapports avec les résultats obtenus.
La tâche des employés: les syndicats ouvriers et la natalité; leur attitude à l'égard du sursalaire familial; raisons de leur hostilité ou de leur sympathie.
Le travail professionnel de la femme et la natalité.

MARGUERITE DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,

Présidente de l'U.S.F.

GRANDE-BRETAGNE.

L'Union des Suffragistes Catholiques.

Cette société fut une part officielle dans le grand Congrès Catholique tenu à Liverpool en juillet.

Le père Hall présida ensuite à une réunion pour discuter les pensions pour veuves.

Une résolution fut prise à l'unanimité pour demander au gouvernement d'établir un système de pensions pour les veuves ayant des enfants dépendant d'elles.

L'Union Catholique des Suffragistes profita aussi de l'occasion que leur offrait le Congrès pour se réunir publiquement et pour démontrer la nécessité d'avoir plus de femmes au Parlement. L'union proposa que les différents partis politiques auraient des femmes candidates aux prochaines élections.

GRÈCE.

La Nouvelle Loi du Divorce.

Causes de divorce.

1. En cas d'adultère, ou de bigamie, la femme peut ainsi que l'homme demander le divorce.
Si le mari est l'adultère, le tribunal peut refuser le divorce s'il juge la conduite du mari excusable, mais dans le cas où le mari ou la femme aurait consenti à l'inconduite de l'autre, la cause de divorce n'existe plus.
2. En cas d'attentat sur la vie d'un des partis par l'autre.
3. Si l'un abandonne l'autre pendant une durée de deux ans.
4. En cas d'inconduite rendant la vie conjugale impossible.
5. Pour cause de folie—l'insanité devant être d'une durée de deux ans.
6. Si l'un ou l'autre disparaît.
7. En cas d'incapacité sexuelle découverte après le mariage et après une durée de trois ans, cette incapacité existant à l'heure de la demande du divorce.

Conséquences du divorce.

La femme divorcée reprend son nom de famille ainsi que sa fortune et sa dot—sauf ce qui aurait été donné au mari par contrat avant le mariage.
La personne coupable maintient l'autre en cas de besoin, mais toute responsabilité cesse par un second mariage.
En cas d'insulte, le tribunal peut en plus condamner le coupable à payer une somme en compensation.
Les enfants sont sous la tutelle de la personne non coupable.
Si les deux sont coupables, la femme aurait la tutelle des filles et des fils jusqu'à l'âge de 8 ans. Après l'âge de 8 ans, les fils passent au père. Le tribunal se réserve cependant le droit de ne pas confier les enfants aux parents si leur conduite justifiait cette décision.
Le maintien de l'enfant est à la charge des parents et fixé par le tribunal d'après leur fortune respective.

PARAGUAY.

Les femmes les plus importantes et les plus capables du Paraguay se sont réunies dernièrement à Asuncion dans la grande salle du Collège National; Madame Ermelindo Ortez présidait. Un membre de la Chambre des Députés, le Dr. Telemaco Silveyra, dans son discours proposa la formation d'une association qui soutiendrait les droits égaux de l'homme et de la femme.

Après une longue discussion à laquelle les hommes prirent part, ainsi que les femmes, le "Centro Feminista Paraguayo" fut organisé.

Cette association se compose de trente-trois femmes et de quatre hommes. Le Dr. Serafina Davalos se trouve en première ligne sur la liste de l'association. Un télégramme de félicitations fut reçu au Congrès International pour le suffrage des femmes à Genève.

LA SUÈDE—NOUVELLES LOIS.

La femme dans l'industrie.

Certains travaux sont défendus à la femme, tels que le travail des mines ou autre travail sous terre.

Avant l'âge de 21 ans, il lui est défendu de décharger et d'emmagasiner des marchandises. Le travail de nuit dans les fabriques lui est aussi défendu et les mères, mariées ou non mariées, doivent quitter le travail deux semaines avant leur accouchement et ne peuvent le reprendre que six semaines après, à moins d'avoir le consentement du médecin. Aucun commerce n'est défendu à la femme, l'usage seul les empêche de faire certaines choses.

Mariage et Divorce.

Le 19 avril nos deux Chambres de Représentants adoptèrent une loi toute nouvelle pour le mariage en Suède; quelques-unes des clauses sont en existence depuis 1916. La loi nouvelle spécifie la position personnelle et économique de la femme et du mari.

Cette loi fut votée par une grande majorité et se trouve la plus progressive du monde.

Enfants de parents non mariés.

Une femme non mariée a droit absolu sur l'enfant. Le père doit, d'après sa position, contribuer au maintien de l'enfant, et s'il négligeait ce devoir un droit de saisie serait mis sur une partie de son revenu ou de ses gages. Cette partie serait donnée directement à la mère ou, par la permission de la mère, à la personne s'occupant de l'enfant. L'enfant porte le nom de la mère et hérite de la famille de la mère une part égale avec les enfants légitimes.

Législation morale.

En 1918 la registration des prostituées fut abolie. Une femme peut consentir à se laisser séduire à l'âge de 15 ans, mais jusqu'alors elle se trouve absolument protégée par la loi. Rien ne peut faire pardonner le séducteur d'une fille ayant moins de 15 ans. En cas de maladie vénérienne, le traitement est gratuit et obligatoire et le même pour l'homme et la femme. Les avances faites en rue sont punies également pour l'homme et la femme.

L'espace nous manque pour donner bien des détails intéressants qui nous sont envoyés de Suède par Madame Anna Wicksell. Nous donnons forcément un abrégé très laconique.

SUISSE.

Proposition de la Délégation suisse sur la nationalité de la femme mariée.

1. La femme qui épouse un homme de nationalité étrangère garde la nationalité de son pays de naissance, tout en adoptant celle de son mari.

2. Les droits de la nationalité de la femme, tant qu'elle n'habite pas son pays, restent latents.

3. Les circonstances qui affectent les droits civils du mariage sont réglées par les lois nationales du mari si la loi nationale est en question, mais la femme peut demander le divorce dans son pays si les lois nationales du mari ne le lui permettaient pas.

4. Dans le cas où soit la femme ou le mari aurait l'intention de se faire naturaliser dans un autre pays, il serait nécessaire d'en faire part au parti intéressé.

5. La femme a le droit d'adopter sa nouvelle nationalité ou de garder la sienne. Les enfants issus de ce mariage prennent la nationalité du père. Ils ont cependant le droit de prendre la nationalité de la mère à l'âge de 19 ans.

6. En cas de guerre, les enfants vivant avec leur mère dans son pays profitent, jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans, des avantages accordés à la mère par sa nationalité.

Exposé de motifs.

Les thèses ci-dessus ont été formulées dans l'idée qu'elles pourraient servir de base à un règlement international de la question. Il va sans dire qu'aucun pays isolé — surtout pas un pays aussi petit que la Suisse — ne peut décider à lui tout seul de questions de ce genre. Toutefois ces thèses ont été établies de telle façon qu'elles ne soient pas en contradiction avec les mesures en vigueur en Suisse.

1. Le fait que la femme qui épouse le ressortissant d'une autre nationalité puisse avoir une double nationalité est analogue au cas où un citoyen suisse est né dans certains pays étrangers, ou à celui où il acquiert plus tard une nationalité étrangère. Il ne perd pas sa nationalité suisse pour cela, et il est de fait qu'un grand nombre de personnes possèdent aujourd'hui même une double nationalité.

2. Cette mesure a été ajoutée pour éviter l'abus qui pourrait faire une femme de sa double nationalité. Cela doit lui rendre impossible de bénéficier des avantages de l'une des nationalités et de se soustraire aux ennus de celle-ci en se réclamant de l'autre. Il reste à discuter si cet article ne pourrait pas être laissé de côté, car en pratique les droits du pays de domicile seront toujours exercés activement tandis que les autres resteront à l'état latent.

3. Il va de soi que l'union matrimoniale ne peut être réglée que par un seul droit. Mais la femme sera libre de demander le divorce dans sa patrie, pour les cas où la loi nationale de son pays ne reconnaît pas le divorce, comme c'était le cas jusqu'ici.

5. L'âge de 18 ans pour l'option a été choisi en vue de l'établissement des tableaux de recrutement militaire. Cas échéant, on pourrait reporter l'option à l'âge de majorité.

6. Cet article tend à empêcher que des enfants ou des adolescents ayant été élevés dans le pays d'origine de leur mère puissent être traités comme ennemis de ce pays en cas de guerre, y être internés ou rapatriés dans le pays de leur père. Comme la mère n'aura plus à subir ces mesures selon l'art. 1, le sort des enfants transférés seuls dans un pays dont ils ne connaissent peut-être même pas la langue pourrait en devenir encore plus dur que pendant la dernière guerre.

URUGUAY.

Un député de l'Uruguay, Alfeo Brum, frère du président le Dr. Baltazar Brum, a présenté un projet de loi en faveur du vote municipal pour la femme. Ce projet a non seulement le concours de toutes les associations féminines, mais il est en plus soutenu par les hommes les plus influents. Ils a été appuyé à la réunion des directeurs du Conseil national des femmes.

Le Conseil demande aussi que la position des femmes travaillant dans les grands magasins soit améliorée.

LA CONFÉRENCE ABOLITIONNISTE INTERNATIONALE, GENÈVE, 1920.

Après une interruption de cinq années, la Fédération Aboliste Internationale aura lieu à Genève du 27 au 29 septembre, 1920.

Pour bien des raisons, un intérêt tout spécial se porte sur cette Conférence, qui, nous l'espérons, aura beaucoup d'adhérents "abolistes" et d'autres qui s'intéressent à la lutte contre les maladies vénériennes et le problème de la prostitution.

La fédération fut fondée en 1875. Les réunions annuelles de la société ont vu des représentants de tous les pays de l'Europe et de l'Amérique, et ont beaucoup assisté à l'abolition du système d'examen en Grande-Bretagne, en Hollande, en Norvège, en Danemark et en Italie.

La note spéciale de la Conférence de Portsmouth a été une "Politique Constructive," la liberté responsable!

La guerre n'est pas faite pour la liberté civile ni pour un travail de construction; mais dans certains pays, le progrès est cependant sensible et a suivi les lignes dictées à Portsmouth.

Trois des projets formés à cette conférence se sont matérialisés dans notre pays: la police féminine, très utile; la continuation de l'éducation élémentaire; et une pension plus suffisante pour les femmes de nos soldats.

Le traitement libre et gratuit pour les maladies vénériennes est un succès réel.

L'une des raisons pour lesquelles cette conférence est importante est la probabilité d'une extension considérable dans les projets de la fédération. Jusqu'à présent l'abolition de la prostitution légale et tolérée a été son but spécial; mais il

(La suite à la page 16.)

sense among the Abolitionists that the fundamental evil which we have to destroy is the *belief in prostitution as a natural thing*, as "an unavoidable evil." So long as this belief remains, there will be no security against the tyranny and iniquity of the Regulationist idea. The Executive proposes that the Federation should definitely include a second object, namely, "a scientific study of prostitution, its moral, economic or other causes, its effects, and the means of remedying it." If this is accepted, the title of the Federation may need to be correspondingly altered.

This step would be in accordance with the effort made at Portsmouth to outline "a constructive policy." It ought to bring a wider area of interest and an increased volume of support to the Federation.

Other subjects upon which reports will be submitted and discussions take place are:—

- (1) De la tendance à correctionnaliser la prostitution des mineurs.
- (2) Étude comparative des résultats obtenus par les méthodes prophylactiques *libérale et coercitive*, à la lumière des expériences faites pendant la guerre.
- (3) L'action des pouvoirs publics dans la lutte contre les maladies vénériennes (mise au point).

There is little danger of any wider extension of the old discredited form of Regulation. The greater danger lies in efforts or proposals put forward by honest and well-intentioned persons who seek to meet some particular phase of the social evil by expedients which fail to take account of all the complex factors involved. No method is sound or scientific, none can be successful, unless it is based on justice and on individual responsibility with its corollary, personal liberty. The new order must be built on the foundation of the equal standard—equal justice, equal morality, equal responsibility, and equal liberty for all. As to this foundation all Abolitionists are agreed, but they have to show how it can be translated into practice in the various departments of law, administration, public order and public health. In doing this, the nations can learn much from each other, and there is no more useful way of doing so than by a Conference such as that to be held at Geneva.

London, September 20, 1920.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

AN APPRECIATION.

IN hailing the new Board of Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance no one can fail to regret the absence from it of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, who this year resigned from the position as First Vice-President and did not stand for re-election.

In Great Britain itself, Mrs. Fawcett has always stood out not only as the wise leader of the constitutional movement, but also a real pioneer. Her ways have been pioneering ways all along—ways of courage mixed with care, and it has perhaps been this pioneering attribute which has made her so pre-eminent a leader.

There is something about the hard beginnings of movements which teaches either fanaticism or wisdom, and which makes people either bitter or humorous according to their natures. Wisdom and humour together make a blend that is useful on an International Board of Officers, and Mrs. Fawcett's quiet jokes as well as her straight vision will be greatly missed.

The International Alliance has had eight meetings, and Mrs. Fawcett has attended all but the first, in America, and the last, in Switzerland. She was the hostess of the Conference which met in London in 1911, and has worked very closely with the Headquarters Committee during the years it has been established in London. She has written constantly for this paper and had its interests closely at heart, and she has always kept in mind the International spirit of the movement.

The qualities of the pioneer, which made her so great a leader in her own country, have enabled her to do International work of first-rate importance. She has never thought a clue too vague to follow, nor a distance too long to span. She has had patience over long years, and has rejoiced and fostered small beginnings, despising nothing and hoping everything when things were dark, and following the same course when they were bright. The Alliance will miss her from its

Councils, but her friends in all parts of the world will not miss her friendship, for, of course, it cannot be taken from them.

Among the qualities of a pioneer there is one which sometimes surprises people who have lived in the easier yet more complex days of success, and that is the quality of persistence. There have been times, in the history of the Suffrage movement in all countries when other issues have come forward, when a turmoil of other considerations has risen up to obscure the development of the Suffrage movement. In all such times Mrs. Fawcett has held steadily to the main cause, refusing to be led away from it; and it is to persistence such as this that victory comes.

The progress of the International Suffrage movement has done more than to help the individual victories in different countries, for it has also helped towards mutual understanding. There is nothing in the world so important to-day as the International situation. Henceforward no country can consider its own affairs without reference to those of other countries, nor can any movement remain single and national in its scope. To most people the world-wide movement for women franchise has only been known as a national affair, and the great sweep of its progress has seemed surprising. To some, however, the thing has always been clear, and to them the world owes a debt of gratitude. Mrs. Fawcett is one of these.

RAY STRACHEY.

ARGENTINE.

A BILL introduced by Dr. Araya is now pending in the National Chamber of Deputies, to give every woman, at 21 years of age, the same right to vote that a young man obtains at 18.

Mario Bravo is about to introduce a bill to give the women of Argentina municipal suffrage.

The Working Women's Federation in the province De Corrientes, Argentina, has started a paper, *Una Fuerza*, which will appear twice a month. It will be the mouthpiece of the Association, and will also advocate equal rights for women.

August 28, 1920.

BRAZIL.

Woman Suffrage Bill Defeated.

FROM *The Times* of September 1 we learn that the Brazilian Senate has rejected, by a considerable majority, a Bill enfranchising women on the same terms as men.

M. Justo Chermont, who was responsible for the introduction of this Bill, is a convinced Woman Suffragist. He is also very anxious that Brazilian women should enter political life in order to encourage the men of the country to a more energetic interest in its destinies, and in a note attached to the Bill, he deplors the lack of public spirit, and the indifference of the voting population.

The women's movement in Brazil is certainly growing apace. The editor of *Noco Journal*, Senora Cassilda Martins, writes that lately the first Woman Inspector of Public Schools has been appointed in Rio de Janeiro. Until latterly most women's organisations have been entirely engaged in works for charity, but they are now turning their thoughts more and more to the political aspect of things.

GREAT BRITAIN.

N.U.S.E.C. REPORT.

The Summer School, Ruskin College, Oxford.

A SUCCESSFUL Summer School has just been held at Ruskin College, Oxford. Over a hundred students attended, drawn from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, besides a sprinkling of women from other countries—Japan, India, France, Sweden, Australia, United States, and Canada. There can be no doubt that much of the success of the School was due to their presence, and a little gathering held on a Sunday afternoon, when addresses were given on the Geneva Congress by delegates from other countries, recalled to some of us the Congress in miniature and undoubtedly helped to spread the interest in international questions which is awakening in our societies.

The syllabus of the School included not only lectures on the programme of the Union under the title "The Economic Independence of Women," but on other subjects of special interest at the present time such as "Penal Reform," "Local Administration," "The Economics of Domestic Life" and perhaps the most striking course of all in a rich and varied time table, "The League of Nations" with special reference to women's position in the League.

The names of the lecturers will be known outside Great Britain, and included Sir George Paish, Sir Sydney Olivier, Mr. Arnold Forster, as well as Mrs. Rackham, Miss Helen Ward, Miss Rosamond Smith and others. Frequent meetings were held to discuss methods of organisation in our societies, the Parliamentary work of the Union, the Election Policy and a successful class for speakers was held.

The School has certainly become an annual institution, and arrangements are already in progress for next Summer. Men and women interested in our programme from other countries would be very warmly welcomed, and we hope that any visitors to England next Summer will try to arrange to be with us for at least part of the time. Any desiring to attend can have full particulars on application to our Headquarters, N. U. S. E. C., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

A Council of Women representing practically all women's national organisations has recently been formed. As the result of a postal vote of these societies, Miss Mary Macarthur was elected Chairman, Miss Kathleen Courtney Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby Hon. Treasurer. The first task that fell to this Council was one of exceptional interest—the selection of names of women suitable to serve on the assembly of the League of Nations which is to meet at Geneva in November, to send to the Prime Minister. The following six names were elected by ballot from a panel already prepared by the Council: Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Margery Fry, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Mrs. Henry Fawcett's name, which had not appeared on the original panel, was also included.

Women Justices of the Peace.

Over 200 women justices of the peace have been appointed for different parts of the country. The list includes many women who have done conspicuously useful public work in other directions and a large proportion of well-known Suffragists. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, late President of the N. U. S. E. C., and Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, President (appointed earlier in the year for the County of Lancashire), Mrs. Bethune Baker, Miss S. Margery Fry, Mrs. Rackham, and Mrs. Coombe Tennant are among members or ex-members of the Executive Committee who are now magistrates. Some women have already been sworn in and taken their places on the Bench. Women jurors have now been empanelled in several places and the prejudice against them seems to be disappearing.

September 23, 1920.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

THE above society took part in the National Catholic Congress held at Liverpool in July, and held a meeting on Widows' Pensions, the chair being taken by Father Hale. A resolution was passed unanimously urging the Government to establish a system of pensions for widows with dependent children. The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society took advantage of the Congress to hold a public meeting on the need of women in Parliament. The following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, realising the need for women in Parliament, calls upon the different political parties to adopt a fair proportion of women candidates at the next election." The two prospective candidates for Liverpool constituencies, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown, being present in the audience, the chairman, Miss L. de Alberti, urged all present to work hard for these candidates, to ensure their return to Parliament.

At the close of the meeting Miss Annie Christitch gave an account of the International Suffrage Congress at Geneva, and spoke of the propaganda among the Swiss Catholics done by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society delegates to the Congress. L. DE A.

GREECE.

NEW DIVORCE LAW.

A NEW Divorce Law has just been passed by the Greek Chamber. The Greek League for Women's Rights, which is now affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, has used all its influence in bringing about the greater, though not complete, spirit of equality which marks the new law, as compared with the old.

The summarised provisions are as follows:—

Grounds for Divorce.

1. Adultery or bigamy. (NOTE.—In the case of adultery on a husband's part, the court may use discretionary power, if they consider there was reasonable justification.) The petition is dismissed if the petitioning party has consented to the adultery or bigamy.
2. Attempted murder of the other party.
3. Wilful desertion during two years.
4. Conduct rendering conjugal life impossible.
5. Incurable insanity, which must have lasted three years before the date of the petition.
6. The disappearance of either party.
7. Conjugal incapacity, discovered only after marriage. This incapacity must have lasted for at least three years, and exist at the time of the petition.

Consequences of Divorce.

1. The divorced woman takes her own family name.
2. The woman receives her dowry, but any marriage settlements in favour of the husband are retained by him.
3. The guilty party is obliged, where necessary, to maintain the other according to the standard of his or her means.
4. There is a similar clause in connection with divorce on account of insanity. In both cases this responsibility ceases if the innocent party re-marries. In the case of the death of the guilty party, however, his or her estate is still liable for the maintenance of the other.
5. Maintenance may be paid in the form of a capital gift, if reason can be shown for this course.
6. Damages may be claimed in addition to maintenance in such cases where there have been aggravating circumstances.
7. Custody of the children is given to the non-guilty party. When both parties are guilty, the mother has the custody of the daughters of the marriage, and of sons under eight years of age; the father the custody of any son if he be over eight.
8. Discretionary power rests with the Court, who may appoint a third party as guardian of the children.
9. Neither parent is denied the right of access to the children.
10. Both parents must contribute to the maintenance of the child, according to their financial status.

MARIE NEGROPONTES,

President Greek League for Women's Rights.

Athens, September 6, 1920.

LUXEMBOURG.

Report given by Mme. Elvire Klotz, delegate of the Luxembourg Government to the Eighth Congress of the I.W.S.A.

LUXEMBOURG, which has only 260,000 inhabitants, is probably the smallest of the nations represented at this Congress.

The women of Luxembourg obtained the right to vote in May, 1919. They had no struggle to go through in order to obtain it; their opinion was not even asked before it was granted them. All the struggling took place between the different parties in Parliament.

Suffrage and Eligibility Granted.

Our electoral system was very much out of date. Males over 25 years of age, and paying a minimum sum of taxation, alone voted. When it was desired to democratise this system, the Chamber of Deputies met as a constituent in order to discuss the new electoral laws, with the intention of making them as just as possible, in order that they might be durable. The Right therefore proposed to insert votes for women; the Socialists alternately adhered to this proposal and opposed it; the Liberals used every means to prevent it. Seeing that they could not succeed in this, they attempted to retard the measure for six years, on the pretext that women would then be better prepared to exercise their new rights. They then consented to grant the municipal but not the parliamentary franchise. The struggle was keen, and at the moment it was

believed that the Liberals had gained over a little group of Independents to their way of thinking. As two-thirds of the votes are necessary to effect a change in the constitution, this would have prevented the law. But at the last moment the Independents voted with the other parties, and the law passed. It is conceived in a very wide spirit: Proportional votes; the right to vote for all males and females after the age of 21; the right of eligibility at the age of 25.

Eight days later appeared our woman's paper, *Die Luxembourgeois Frau*, created with the intention of uniting women and enlightening them as their new duties.

We exercised our new right for the first time in September, when we were consulted as to our country's future under the form of a *referendum*. Republic or Monarchy? Such was the political question submitted to us. Four-fifths of the votes went to our Grand Duchess Charlotte; we remained, therefore, an independent monarchy.

A month later, on October 26, the legislative elections took place, for the Constituent, having fulfilled its task, was dissolved. Lectures were given in order to prepare the women voters, and our paper contributed articles to help in their formation as citizens.

One Woman Deputy.

There were two women candidates, one of whom was elected. 65,000 women voted—that is to say, more than half of the whole electorate. Voting, indeed, is compulsory, under penalty of a fine.

The communal elections will take place next October. The women distinguished themselves by their good behaviour, and helped to improve the tone of electioneering customs.

PARAGUAY.

Equal Rights Association Founded.

A MEETING was lately held in Asuncion, in which all the ablest women of Paraguay are said to have taken part. The gathering met in the hall of the National College of Asuncion. Senorita Ermelindo Ortiz presided. A member of the Chamber of Deputies, Dr. Telemaco Silverira, spoke, urging the formation of an Equal Rights Association, and Senorita Ortiz followed in the same strain. After a full discussion, in which both men and women took part, the Centro Feminista Paraguayo was organised, with 33 women and 4 men as members. Doctora Serafina Davalos stands first on the list. A telegram of greetings and adhesion was sent to the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at Geneva.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Broken Pledges.

THE Parliamentary position of Women Suffrage may just be outlined.

The motion, or resolution, of which Mr. D. M. Brown gave notice in the Lower House at the opening of Parliament affirmed the principle of political equality between the sexes, met with a good reception, the division taken on May 3 after a two-day's debate being ayes 66, noes 39, a majority of 27, as against a 2 votes majority for Mr. Wyndham's motion on April 1 last year.

Mr. Brown's Bill to enfranchise women was read for the first time on May 11. Mr. Merriman tried to defeat the first reading on constitutional lines, the Bill, in his view, involving an important change in the Constitution. The occasion was notable as the first Parliamentary pronouncement on Women Suffrage by the Prime Minister, who supported the Bill as introducing a great and necessary reform, but he held out no promise of facilities; he declined to make it a Government Bill on the ground that it should be kept out of the Party arena. The voting was ayes 66, noes 47. Carried, by a majority of 19, in a House of 113 members.

The second reading, set down for May 27, was purposely blocked by discreditable proceedings, whereby another very useful Bill which had the first place in the order paper was lost and the undoubtedly good chances of the second reading of the Enfranchisement Bill were checkmated.

The position, therefore, is that no help is to be looked for from the Government, and probably, however successfully an Enfranchisement Bill might pass its second reading in another session, means will be found to defeat it. It is clear that in South Africa we have, during the last session witnessed

the first instalment of the treatment that may be expected in the future. It is evident that nothing is to be expected from the present Government, which has put woman franchise on its programme and failed to support it. The women of the Government Party have enforced the principle at two Union conferences, and now are going back upon it at three Principal conferences. The association is up against an entire lack of principle in this matter, and the question is, what is to be done next?

Capetown, August 11, 1920.

SWEDEN.

REPORT PRESENTED TO THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE I.W.S.A.

A.—The Present Position of Women, with Indications of Progress made since 1913.

I.—Political and Local Government Suffrage.

THE Swedish women have enjoyed municipal suffrage since 1862, always on the same terms as men, theoretically. In reality, many women have been excluded, because suffrage was based upon income, and most women, particularly the married women, either had no income or not sufficient. But since 1918 we have now universal municipal suffrage for women and men alike, with no income qualification at all.

The political suffrage is momentarily pending. It was granted by both Chambers of Parliament in 1919, but to be valid it must be adopted once more by both Chambers after new elections. Such elections will take place this autumn. The definite parliamentary decision, which is only a form, will be given in 1921, after which we expect the Second Chamber to be dissolved, and new elections ordered for the autumn, 1921, when the women will vote. The voting conditions are the same for men and women; presumably about 1,400,000 women will be qualified as against 1,300,000 men. The women, of course, also will be eligible, but probably very few will be elected. A small number will be put upon the lists, but many men will strike them out, while the women will be too loyal to do so against a man candidate who is considered well qualified in himself.

II.—Public Offices, Government and Municipal Services.

Women have for many years been working in the Civil Service, but only in the lower positions and at lower wages than men. Since 1918 they have been admitted to all State school offices, with the single exception of headmasterships of boys' schools and men's seminaries. As yet they cannot be appointed judges, university professors, State medical officials, clergymen, or higher officials within the Civil Service, though they are allowed to pass the same entrance examinations as men. Last year, however, a Royal Commission was appointed, with Mrs. Emilia Broomé as its president, to draw up legal rules concerning the admittance of women to State appointments. This Commission has recently given its first report, proposing to remove all constitutional obstacles to the admittance of women to State service; they also propose that the details and conditions of such admission shall be set forth in a special law; that this law shall stipulate that women shall be entitled, provided they possess due qualifications, to all State appointments except military service, higher police service, State offices at prisons for men, and diplomatic and consular service—the latter because of presumed international difficulties. A royal proposition, on the lines recommended in the Committee report, though more cautious in its wording, has been issued, and we hope that it will be adopted. The question of salary will be settled in the special law. With respect to positions in schools which are already opened, women's wages are a little lower than men's owing to their longer lives, and the consequent drawing of pensions for a longer time than men.

III.—Education and Professions.

Practically all opportunities of education are opened to girls as well as boys, though girls are still handicapped because the higher girls' schools are all private, though given State subventions, and therefore rather expensive, while the higher

boys' schools are wholly supported by the State. As yet women are not admitted to the central governing school bodies—we have one governing board for the district schools and one for the higher State schools,—but they certainly will be as soon as the Civil Service generally is opened to them.

As for the liberal professions, women may be doctors and lawyers, engineers and architects, dentists, etc. As such they are paid at the same rates as men in the same professions, and it would be considered as extremely disloyal if a woman lawyer or physician accepted lower rates than their men colleagues. It is only when the State pays that this is considered permissible and even just.

IV.—Industry, Trade, and Trade Unions.

Special rules limiting women's industrial work are to be found in the Factory Acts. All below-ground work is forbidden to all women; women under 21 years are forbidden lading, unloading, and storing of goods in ships. All night work in factories is also closed to women. Mothers, whether married or unmarried, are not allowed to work in factories for two weeks before and six weeks after childbirth, if medical consent is not given; but as no State allowance is as yet provided for such mothers, doctors will generally testify their ability to work without harm to themselves or their child.

As far as I know there is no trade from which a woman is expressly excluded, but custom prevents their employment in certain trades. I have never seen a woman chimney-sweep or an iron-plate worker, and I suppose they would have to go through a hard fight in order to be admitted to these trades. But I don't think there are any trade union rules expressly shutting women out from apprenticeship in any trade.

V.—Marriage, Divorce, and Widowhood.

Only a short time ago, on April 19, both our Chambers of Parliament adopted a perfectly new marriage law for Sweden. Some parts of this law, about the conditions under which marriage is possible, and about divorce, have been in force since 1916. The new parts now adopted are the central rules about the personal and economic situation of husband and wife. The law was passed with rather large majorities—in the First Chamber it was 83—41, and in the Second 126—26 votes. With this law I think we shall have the most progressive marriage law of the whole world. The small improvements which we still want may come soon enough now that we have the vote, and if they don't come we are ourselves responsible for it.

By this law the husband's guardianship over his wife is completely abolished. She may choose her own domicile, practice whatever trade or profession she wants without her husband's consent, make contracts with whoever she likes, even with her husband. All marriage rights and duties are mutual and alike for husband and wife. If she has any personal fortune or working income it is wholly at her own disposal, but at the same time, when the marriage is dissolved through death or divorce, she has a right to half the property of both parties taken together, and this latent marital right gives her also the possibility of objecting, during marriage, to her husband's squandering or mismanaging his fortune to the detriment of the family. Of course the husband has the same right against her.

If both have personal income, both have to contribute to home expenses according to their ability; but if the wife gives all her work to her home it is expressly stated that she thereby fulfils her duty as a family supporter as well as her husband, who procures the necessary funds. She has a legal right to get from her husband what money is required for the household or the maintenance of the family as well as for her own special needs; if the money is not forthcoming she may have a lien placed on the necessary part of his income, and this part delivered up to her.

Parents are joint guardians of their children. The only difference made is that if the child has a fortune of its own the father alone is legal trustee.

If a married couple wants to part they have only to give in to the proper authority an application for separation; if this is signed by both husband and wife separation is granted for one year without any further investigation. When the year is over either of them may ask for a full divorce. If only one of them wants to separate or to divorce immediately without separation, reasons must be given; such grounds are

infidelity, desertion, debauchery, and drunkenness, general neglect of family duties, or knowingly exposing the other party to contagion from venereal disease. After divorce a wife may claim maintenance from her husband according to her need and his ability, unless she be mainly in fault as to the divorce. The children will be given to the parent who is considered most fit to take care of them.

For poor widows nothing is done except in the way of poor relief.

VI.—The Children of Unmarried Parents.

An unmarried mother has all rights over her child. She is its sole guardian, and has all parental authority over it. Everything is done to force the father to contribute to the maintenance of an illegitimate child. Each parish has a specially appointed man or woman whose business it is to help unmarried mothers to get what is due to them or to the child. The father has to contribute according to his ability and his social position, and if he neglects payment a lien may be placed upon a corresponding part of his wages, which is delivered directly to the mother or whoever has, by her permission, care of the child. But the child has no right to its father's name nor to inherit from him; it carries its mother's name and inherits from her and her family at the same rate as a legitimate child.

VII.—Morals Legislation.

In 1918 the registration of prostitutes was abolished. The moral laws may be considered as, upon the whole, equal between the sexes, as well as equally administered. The age of consent for a girl is 15 years, and up to that age she is absolutely protected. No "belief" in a higher age will help a seducer of a young girl under 15.

In case of venereal disease medical treatment is compulsory and gratuitous. No difference is made between men and women. Solicitations in the streets for immoral purposes is equally illegal for men and women. Whether the law is equally applied to both is difficult to say; men are certainly more often brought into court for such offence, but it is possible that women are more heavily fined when accused.

B.—Present Position and Work of the Auxiliary.

The Swedish National Association for Woman Suffrage still exists, and certainly will exist as long as the suffrage is still pending. Whether, when it is definitely granted, the National Association will reconstitute itself as a Society of Women Citizens, or it will amalgamate with our old women's rights association, the Fredrika Bremer Forbund, is not yet decided. At the last annual meeting it was resolved that the Association should continue to live under one of these forms, but which it will be will only be decided next year.

At the actual moment the Association possesses about 14,000 members and 200 branches, but both members and branches have a tendency to fall off.

Whether the Association is reconstituted in one way or in the other, it will certainly wish to continue to be affiliated to the Alliance. It is the unanimous desire of the Association that when we have got our own suffrage we shall be able to partake in helping less happy countries, and we can do this only through the Alliance.

ANNA WICKSELL.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN GERMAN SWITZERLAND.

By B. BUNZLI.

IN German Switzerland the adherents of Women's Suffrage have been crushingly defeated there last year. They are unfortunately obliged to confess that Switzerland marches in the last row of the great European movement for freedom, together with the Balkan States and Spain, and most obstinately denies political rights to her women citizens, which rights the new republics have granted to their women citizens as a natural consequence of their democratic Constitutions. Inactivity of the Women's Suffrage Societies is not the cause of this defeat. They work with all their might to realise the idea of suffrage by means of systematical propaganda in Berne, Bâle, Zürich and St. Gallen. But the Swiss still clings to the ideal of the subjection of the housewife.

He considers that the independence and equality of rights for women would imperil the family life and that of the State.

Socialists submitted the motions for the attainment of political rights for women to the authorities of the Cantons of Berne, Bâle, Zürich, and St. Gallen. The Synod seized the initiative for the religious franchise. In Canton Berne the Women's Suffrage Society, led by Fr. Dr. Graf, president of the Swiss Schoolmistresses' Union, carried out an action on a grand scale with praiseworthy energy and devotion, on Senator Moor's motion. Sixty-five lectures were delivered, a first-rate newspaper, *Die Bürgerin*, was published, and in May, 1917, a petition with 8,771 signatures was handed in to the Government. In spite of this, the municipal franchise for women was declined with a large majority both in the first and second reading. On the other hand, the remaining demands were granted in December, 1917, and women thereby entitled to be elected for the school board, the charity organisation and board of health committee, and for the board of guardians of children and those under age. The women of six parishes in Canton Berne possess religious franchise.

In the Canton of Bâlestadt, after the law of 1880 had been passed, women could be elected as inspectors of the primary and secondary girl schools and high schools for girls, and since April, 1917, women have the active and passive suffrage for the industrial courts of arbitration; since November, 1917, they have active religious franchise. The Women's Suffrage Society of Bâle carried out an action on a grand scale on the occasion of the Welti motion, so did the Suffrage Societies of Zürich and Winterthur, together with the women's "Zentrale" of Zürich, on the occasion of Greulich's motion for the revival of legislation to procure perfectly equal political rights for women and men. After the motion had been rejected by a majority of 61 against 45 votes in the Council of Bâle, the question was taken up again in December, 1917, and the idea of a change of Constitution accepted. Whereupon the motion was again rejected by two-thirds of the votes when the question was decided by the plebiscite on February 8, 1920.

In Canton Zürich, the Government Board proposed a Bill to the Canton Council in November, 1918, by which Swiss women should have complete franchise, active and passive. The proposition which had been altered in a reactionary sense for a restricted franchise for women, was far surpassed by the initiative. However, on February 8, the initiative desire for the alteration of the political Constitution was rejected by a majority of four-fifths of the votes. This 8th of February is a sad page of Swiss history. Man's egotism and consciousness of mastery and power triumphed, the same which extends from the simplest workman to the intellectual man, and which is the cause of all imperialism, war and suppression. Social democracy also helped a good deal towards the defeat. A great number of rejectors betrayed the fundamental principles of socialism, and clearly illustrated how far removed the social democrats of to-day are from real socialism. The political rights which women possess in Canton Zürich at present are only the following: They are entitled to vote in the administration of the central and district or county schools and orphanages, the poor-houses, and institutions and homes, and pension commissions of the town of Zürich, and the industrial courts of arbitration of the Canton of Zürich.

In May, 1913, the Gruber motion for introducing passive franchise for school trusteeship and charity organisations in the Canton St. Gallen was considerably improved. But as the same lay in the drawer of a desk belonging to the Government Board for six years, and the adherents of Women's Suffrage were not satisfied with the version recommended by the Government Board, an active committee for Women's Suffrage was formed in St. Gallen, which claimed complete suffrage and enfranchisement for women in 1919, and edited an explanatory newspaper called (Woman's Voice) *Die Stimme der Frau*. However, the rejection of Women's Suffrage in Zürich and Bâle obliged the committee to reduce their demands the second petition to the active and passive municipal franchise.

In the Cantons of Schaffhausen, Appenzell-Ausser Rhoden and Aargau the women are also organising societies to obtain Women's Suffrage. In Aarau an assembly of 600 women supported Widmer's motion, which claimed a total revision of the political constitution to secure active and passive enfranchisement for women in all administration of churches, schools, almshouses and hospitals. On this occasion the women formed a union in the Canton for education and to discuss questions concerning women, to prepare them for their enfranchisement.

In October, 1918, religious enfranchisement was accepted for women in the Canton of Graubünden.

The actual state of Women's Suffrage in German Switzerland is anything but promising. This is especially due to the fact that all important Bills and reforms are rejected or accepted by plebiscite. Countries governed by parliaments can safely sail round this cliff. If it were not for these plebiscites women would have attained their enfranchisement in Neuenburg (Neuchâtel), Bâle and Zürich by now. Of course, this does not excuse our country. It is a bitter and most ironical thought that the oldest democracy in the world uses its progressive institutions to deprive the greater part of its population of its right to join in deciding and discussing social and State questions. But it is psychologically comprehensible.

The struggle for the freedom of women is a struggle between the two great natural forces which has gone on since the beginning of the world, the struggle between might and love. Might arms itself in iron armour to protect itself against love's death blow. Might only tolerates love for egotistical purposes and to take advantage of it. But for us women love is the loadstar in darkness which leads us up to the light in the end. With this strength we hope to overcome all violence and to help truth and justice to prevail.

[We hope to print an article on the present position of Woman Suffrage in French Switzerland in the November number of THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.—Ed.]

URUGUAY.

IN Uruguay, a Deputy, Alfeo Brum, brother of the President, Dr. Baltasar Brum, has introduced a municipal Women Suffrage bill. It is supported not only by most of the women's organistaions, but by many influential men. It was endorsed at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Women. The Board is also seeking improved conditions for the women who work in the large stores, and has petitioned their employers to allow them to use the elevators.

SOCIAL & MORAL CONDITIONS OF INDIAN WOMEN IN FIJI.

IT is interesting to note that the efforts of the combined Australasian and New Zealand Women's Societies to inquire into the moral and social conditions of Indian women in Fiji as an outcome of the reports of Mr. Andrews and Miss Garnham upon the conditions obtaining there, have received the recognition of the Fijian Government, and that a select Committee was appointed last year by the legislative Council to consider and report upon the subject of Indentured Labour, and to make recommendation for an adjustment of the sex ratio, improvement in housing accomodation, medical and nursing arrangements, educational and religious facilities, etc.

Recent reports tell us of the cancellation of Indentured Labour, and the latest communication received by the Secretary of the combined Australasian and New Zealand Women's Societies states that favourable consideration is given to the appointment of a medical woman in the hospital at Suva, defining the terms upon which the appointment must be made. This has resulted in advertisements being duly inserted by the Women's Committee in the Medical Journals of Australia, India and Great Britain, asking for applications for the appointment. These will be forwarded by the Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Fiji, to be sent by him to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by whom the appointment is eventually made.

Undoubtedly the process is a slow one, but as all great things have small beginnings, let us hope that the steps being taken for the general improvement of conditions promise to be lasting, and that a new order of things will eventuate.

Contributed by MISS HARRIET C. NEWCOMB.

July 21, 1920.

Britain and India Conference.

THE Britain and India Association is arranging a Conference on India, followed by a Social Evening, for Saturday, October 30, at the Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street (near Oxford Circus). The Conference will begin at 2.30 p.m., and will be addressed by several speakers. Questions and discussion will follow. During the evening, a short Indian play, adapted from Tagore, will be given.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

REPORT PRESENTED TO THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE I.W.S.A.

Women Admitted to Full Citizenship.

BY the revolution of October 28, 1918, the Czech nation took the government of its own affairs into its hands, and again, as in times of its greatness and independence, men and women stood side by side. After the revolution free citizenship was granted to men and women alike without delay, and all revolutionary institutions—like committees, municipal boards, and food commissions in the whole country, as well as the National Assembly, which was the revolutionary parliament—at once called for the co-operation of women. A great women's manifestation meeting was held in Prague, three days after the declaration of independence. At this meeting the Czech women greeted the national independence of their country, and declared that now they expect the wrongs committed against women, under alien governments, to be righted. It is noteworthy that all institutions which had the legal right to do so vied with each other in giving women equal rights with men. The Technical High School, the Academy of Arts, and the Law Faculty at once opened their doors wide to women. From that moment, also, the school authorities allowed teachers to continue in office even after marriage, although the existing law declared marriage to be a voluntary resignation; the revolutionary parliament also, with the co-operation of women, began to right other wrongs.

Eight Women in First National Assembly.

There was but a small number of women in this parliament—8 among 269. These had been appointed by political parties, but even this small number had great value for us, for they were members of all the progressive parties.

And so women as well as men drafted and passed our first laws. These laws are of great importance, and are worthy of a truly free State. Their justice was approved at the International Labour Congress in Washington.

The National Assembly, with the co-operation of women, enacted the following:—

- It proclaimed the Republic and drafted its constitution.
- Unanimously elected our liberator, T. G. Masaryk, President.
- Adopted the military laws in defence of our country.
- Gave all citizens an equal, direct, and secret right of suffrage for parliamentary and local bodies.
- Passed the eight-hour labour law.
- Conceded the right of support to the unemployed.
- Legalised the land reform.
- Reformed the marriage law, etc.
- Abolished on principle all existing wrongs, setting at the head of its constitution the sentence: "The people are the only source of sovereign power in the Czechoslovak Republic," and the paragraph concerning the rights and duties of citizens simply says: "Privileges of sex, birth, and occupation will not be acknowledged."

Surely women were in their place in the first National Assembly of our young Republic, which needed motherly care and love.

Educating the Women Voters.

And now you may ask: "What did the Women's Suffrage Committee do during all this long period of time since you heard of it last?" The Women's Suffrage Committee, in conjunction with the Women's Club, took up the systematic education of women.

It advised women to watch the proceedings of the National Assembly continually, with the same eagerness and interest as they had shown in its first meeting, when they crowded the entrance and galleries of the parliament house and waited for hours for the proclamation of the Czechoslovak Republic in breathless expectation. It taught them how to consider political events, how to observe public conditions, and call the attention of the proper authorities to omissions or menacing dangers. And especially it prepared the women, through the

Press and the spoken word, for the coming municipal elections, whose corporations are in the nearest relationship to the family.

Municipal Work.

The first municipal elections were held in June, 1919. In Bohemia women could vote since the year 1861, but only by proxy; but now, for the first time, they voted personally, and for the first time were also eligible to municipal positions in Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, whereas in Slovakia municipal elections have not yet been held, because of the Hungarian invasion.

Of the entire number of electors 2,746,641, or 54.4 per cent., were women, and 2,302,916, or 45.6 per cent., were men.

Women fulfilled their election duties in a larger measure than men; 92.6 per cent. of the women entitled to the vote did so, of the men, only 90.4 per cent. did so.

Of the entire number of municipal officers elected about 12 per cent. were women, 88 per cent. men. From 20-40 per cent. of the organised women were elected.

Women M.P.'s Successful.

Although there were only 8 women among the 269 members in our Revolutionary Parliament, we may say that their work here was as creditably performed as in municipal positions, though the work was great and difficult.

The Women's Suffrage Committee thought it indispensable that women's voice should be heard in all questions, not only in those which men consider apt to women. And so it saw to it that before the elections to the next parliament, that is, the House of Representatives and the Senate, each political party put up a sufficient number of women candidates among the first names on their list, so that they would surely be elected, not only nominated. For this purpose its members conferred with the different political parties, and urged the women organised in them to work hard toward this end, and insist that only the best women and the best men be put up as candidates.

In the elections for parliament all citizens above the age of 21 were entitled to vote for representatives, and all above 26 for senators.

The women participated in the ante-election campaigns as much as men, often even more. They attended meetings and watched the list of candidates to see that they were not omitted. They also participated in the work of electoral commissions, not only as assistants, but also as presiding officers, where their suggestions were always respected.

The result of the elections for the Parliament of the Czechoslovak Republic, held in April, 1920, are as follows:—

- Of the 199 Czech and Slovak seats 10 are occupied by women.
- Of the 72 German seats 3 are occupied by women.
- Of the 10 Magyar seats none are occupied by women.
- In the Senate the division is as follows:—
- Of the 102 Czech and Slovak members 1 is a woman.
- Of the 37 German members 2 are women.
- Of the 3 Magyar members none are women.

It will be the great duty of this small number of our women representatives and senators to remember that they are not only partisans, but also women. They will have to be friendly and divide the work among themselves, so as to be present everywhere, and know and see everything, and thus to safeguard women's equality with men.

Though few in number, they will need to become so great a moral power that they may stop and even overbalance the huge engine of the State if it should slip back from the new order to the old partial way of dealing. And how is this to be accomplished? Surely only by arduous and conscientious work in office and thorough study at home, as well as by a profound moral purity of character, which commands respect and lends dignity, but also by support from without.

Our women representatives will constantly need to come into sincere and intimate contact with the people in general, but with women in particular, that they may know their griefs, caused by the old wrongs, so that they may be true protectors and propagators of women's equality, resulting not only from their equal right of suffrage, but from a sense of justice in general.

MARIA TUMOVA.
F. PLAMINKOVA.

(Suite de la page 9)

est certain que tant que l'idée existe pour les jeunes générations que la "prostitution est une chose naturelle et un mal nécessaire" il n'y aura aucune sécurité contre certaines régulations tyranniques.

L'exécutif se propose d'ajouter à son programme l'étude scientifique de la prostitution, sa morale économique et d'autres causes, son effet et les moyens de la combattre. On changera peut-être le titre de la Fédération.

Il n'y a aucun moyen certain, ni scientifique, qui puisse réussir sans une base de justice, de responsabilité personnelle, avec son corollaire la liberté de l'individu. Le nouvel état des choses doit s'élever sur une fondation qui doit être un modèle d'égalité pour tous : moralité, responsabilité et liberté.

Tous les "Abolistes" sont de cet avis, mais il s'agit de rendre la chose pratique et possible dans les différentes branches de la loi, de l'administration, de l'ordre public et de la santé publique. Dans cet effort, les différentes nations peuvent beaucoup s'entraider, et la conférence qui doit se tenir à Genève sera d'une grande utilité humanitaire.

The League of the Church Militant.

SIR,

The report of the Lambeth Conference on the Ministry of Women has been read by many, but even those who are specially interested in seeing the resolutions put into effect have read them and then gone on their way rejoicing. May I suggest to such of your readers as have done this that the time of action is here and now. The rejoicing will come later in good time.

We need to remind ourselves that the Lambeth Conference was a deliberative body. The resolutions are merely opinions—weighty, of course—but with no binding power, and concerted action will be necessary before they can be put into operation in the parochial life of the Church. We shall hear much more yet of those who are opposed to the widening of the Ministry of Women in the Church. Probably an opportunity for discussion may be found at the Church Congress in October, and in the National Assembly which meets in November.

It therefore behoves those who are anxious to see women qualifying for these new privileges and responsibilities to *join together at once*. Will all those who are in favour of the Lambeth resolutions relating to women's work in the Church demonstrate that union is strength by communicating with me, or with the Secretary of the League of the Church Militant at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster.

Yours faithfully,

E. LOUIE ACRES,
Acting Press Secretary, L.C.M.

September, 1920.

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LECTURES, AUTUMN, 1920. WEDNESDAYS, 8.15 p.m.

- Oct. 6.—"The Criminal Law Amendment Bills" . . . Miss BERTHA MASON
Chairman: Dr. E. KNIGHT.
Oct. 13.—"Women as Justices of the Peace" . . . Mrs. NEVINSON.
Chairman: Mr. CECIL HAYES.
Oct. 20.—"The Colonies, and Their Present Position" . . . LORD MORRIS, K.C.M.G.
Chairman: The Hon. Sir JOHN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G.
Oct. 27.—"The Situation in Hungary" . . . Mrs. DESPARD.
Chairman: Mr. J. Y. KENNEDY.
Nov. 3.—"The Injustice of the Laws dealing with Sexual Crime, and their Administration—Scotland" . . . Mrs. HAMILTON MORE NISBETT.
Chairman: Miss M. P. GRANT.

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Oct. 13th. Miss W. McLAREN on
"What place, if any, has the father in the home?"
Oct. 20th. Mrs. M. W. NEVINSON, LL.A., J.P., on
"The League of Nations."
Oct. 27th. Miss LIND-AF-HAGEBY.
(Subject to be announced later.)

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